

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 729
By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Willie Henry Brandon
on the celebration of his 100th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Willie Henry Brandon will celebrate his 100th birthday on June 12, 2006, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, the son of Charles and Jimmie Brandon, Willie Brandon was born on June 12, 1906, and he attended Kittrell School until his family moved to Illinois in 1918; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Mr. Brandon served with acumen and alacrity as a cook, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brandon married his high school sweetheart, Lilly Mae, in 1925, and their marriage produced one child, Anne Brandon Smith; and

WHEREAS, before beginning his career as a cook, Willie Brandon worked at a laundromat and as a dishwasher at the James K. Polk Hotel; and

WHEREAS, Willie Brandon and Lilly Mae divorced in 1935, and he married Martha in 1936, and became the stepfather of Herbert McClellan, Martha's son; and

WHEREAS, an excellent and talented cook, Willie Brandon worked at numerous establishments during his lifetime, including the James K. Polk Hotel, the City Café, the Smyrna Air Force Base, and Lamb's Grill, where he worked for twenty years; and

WHEREAS, a diligent and hard worker, Willie Brandon worked twelve hours a day, seven days a week at most of his cooking jobs; and

WHEREAS, at age sixty-two, Willie Brandon retired from cooking; however, two months later, Martha became seriously ill, and Willie began cutting and selling timber to help pay for medical bills; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brandon also worked at Po Folks restaurant for two years before applying for a job at Rutherford County Courthouse at seventy-one years of age; and

WHEREAS, during his employment with Rutherford County Courthouse, Willie's wife, Martha, passed away; and

WHEREAS, after Martha's passing, Willie Brandon attended a church picnic with Addie McKnight, and after much perseverance on Mr. Brandon's part, Willie and Addie were married; and

WHEREAS, a deeply devoted father, Willie Brandon is most proud of his daughter, Anne; Anne earned a college degree, and she is currently retired after an illustrious career as a social worker; and

WHEREAS, Willie Brandon epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism and commitment to excellence that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Mr. Willie Henry Brandon on the celebration of his 100th birthday and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.